units. By the very nature of employment in the SSI units, they cannot be expected to have quality circles. However, the Industry Minister had emphasised the need for SSI units to improve the quality of their products for which Government provides various incentives and facilities.

(b) There are no District Industries Centres in Delhi.

(c) The allocation of any area or market for the disposal of goods is a restrictive trade practice and the MRTP Commission is empowered to take appropriate action in any such case as per the provisions of the MRTP Act, 1969.

Sick units

497. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:
SHRI DIPEN GHOSH:
SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many sick units both large and small-scale, are still in need of assistance from the Central Government like concession in tax and the like for their revival and rehabilitation;

(b) whether there is any plan to extend assistance to these units; and

(c) how many workers are affected, separately, for such large and small-scale units and what is Government's programme to help them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) As per the latest information available from RBI, there were 545 large scale, 1287 medium scale and 91450 small sick industrial units in the assistance portfolio of scheduled commercial banks as at the end of December, 1984. The Government and RBI have been emphasising on the banks and financial institutions to make efforts to identify sickness in an industrial unit at the incipient stage itself, carry out viability studies and nurse such sick units which are considered potentially viable. Banks and institutions draw up rehabilitation programmes in respect of the potentially viable units on a case-to-case basis which may contain both short term and long term measures.

(c) The Ministry of Labour have informed that no information is available regarding the number of workers affected in sick units. The number of workers affected because of closure of units was 24045 during 1985, as per the figures collected by the Labour Bureau.

Complaints from Consumer Organisations

498. SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been numerous complaints from various Consumer Organisations/voluntary consumer forums during the last 3 years to the effect that there was no avenue for redress of mal-practices and unfair distribution of consumer products;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to empower the M.R.T.P. Commission with more powers to protect the common man; and

(c) whether Government propose to bring some legislation in this regard on the lines of the Consumer Protection Bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) The MRTP Act, 1969 was amended, effective from August, 1984, giving more powers to the MRTP Commission to deal with unfair trade practices. No Consumer Protection Bill has been introduced in Parliament.